NTPC, with this objective of getting gas at the most competitive price, went for International Competitive Bidding (ICB) for sourcing of gas for its expansion projects at Kawas (1300 MW) and Gandhar (1300 MW) and placed Letter of Intent (LOI) on RIL, evaluated to be the lowest Techno-Commercially acceptable bidder, for supply of gas at US $ 2.34 / Million Metric British Thermal Unit (MMBTU) for 17 years. Subsequently, RIL sought major changes in Gas Sale and Purchase Agreement (GSPA) in the form of Limitation of Liability and RIL did not sign GSPA. Therefore, NTPC filed a suit against M/s RIL in Bombay High Court on 20.12.2005 for specific performance of the contract. The matter is at present sub-judice. The expansion project is yet to come up.

The variable cost of power (at delivered price of gas of US $ 3.30 / MMBTU based on commodity price of US $ 2.34 / MMBTU) works out to be Rs.1.07/ kilo watt hour (Kwh). The variable cost of power (at delivered price of US$ 6.67/MMBTU considering price of gas as US $ 4.20/MMBTU (land fall price) as fixed by Govt. of India for KG D-6 gas) works out to be Rs.2.17/Kwh. The difference in variable cost of power works out to be Rs.1.10/kwh (Rs.2.17-Rs.1.07/kwh).

Conference of power ministers

2745. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has called on the States and UTs to expedite efforts to achieve goal of power for all;

(b) if so, the decisions taken during the conference of Ministers of Power and whether it has been decided to call such a meeting twice a year; and

(c) if so, what were the points discussed and to what extent measures have been taken to implement decisions taken at the Conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) A Conference of Power Ministers of States was held on 15th November, 2009 at New Delhi to discuss following issues:-

(i) Capacity Addition;

(ii) Open Access;

(iii) Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana; and

(iv) Re-structured APDRP.

After detailed discussion, a Resolution was adopted at the end of the conference incorporating the steps to be taken to expedite progress in Capacity Addition and facilitate implementation of RGGVY, R-APDRP and Open Access.

Constitution of a media commission

†2746. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government has received a proposal for constituting a Media Commission and forming a Central Media Council of Newspapers and News Agency Development, which will work for the development of small or medium newspapers and literary magazines;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by Government, so far, in this regard;

(c) whether Government is contemplating to form a permanent pay fixation machinery for newspapers and magazines which will take timely decision regarding pay; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) The issue of setting up of Media Commission was raised at one of the forums. Initial suggestions/comments have been called for from various media units. However, a final view in this regard is yet to be taken.

There is no such proposal for forming Central Media Council of Newspapers and News Agencies.

(c) and (d) The Government constitutes Wage Board, as and when necessary, for the purpose of fixing and revising rates of wages in respect of working journalists under the 'Working Journalists Act, 1955'.

Price of gas purchased by NTPC

†2747. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NTPC has finally decided to purchase the gas produced at Krishna-Godavari D-6 basin at 4.2 dollar instead of 2.34 dollar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the cost of power generation will get affected as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, the estimated increase in cost of power generation and whether the increased cost will be recovered from the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) NTPC, with the objective of getting gas at the most competitive price, went for International Competitive Bidding (ICB) for sourcing of gas for its expansion projects at Kawas (1300 MW) and Gandhar (1300 MW) and placed Letter of Intent (LOI) on RIL, evaluated to be the lowest Techno-Commercially acceptable bidder, for supply of gas at US $ 2.34 / Million Metric British Thermal Unit (MMBTU) for 17 years. Subsequently, RIL sought major changes in Gas Sale and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.